

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2021

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HOUSE BILL 353

Short Title: Winston-Salem/Forsyth Bd. of Ed./Stagger Term. (Local)

Sponsors: Representatives Lambeth and Zachary (Primary Sponsors).

*For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.*

Referred to: Local Government, if favorable, Election Law and Campaign Finance Reform, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

March 23, 2021

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO CREATE A STAGGERING OF THE TERMS OF MEMBERS OF THE WINSTON-SALEM/FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.(a)** Chapter 112 of the 1961 Session Laws, as rewritten by Chapter 466 of the 1985 Session Laws, and as amended by Chapter 696 of the 1991 Session Laws, S.L. 2009-72, and Section 2(b) of S.L. 2011-141, reads as rewritten:

"(ii) Effective on the first Monday in December 1986, the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education shall be composed of nine members. ~~In the 2010 election, nine persons shall be elected to the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education for members, serving four-year staggered terms. The terms of those elected in 2010 for two-year terms shall instead expire on the first Monday in December of 2014.~~December.

In 2014:2024, to implement staggering of the terms, all members shall be elected and serve as follows:

- (1) Two persons shall be elected from District 1. The person receiving the highest number of votes shall serve a four-year term, and such seat shall be up for election in 2028 and every four years thereafter. The person receiving the second highest number of votes shall serve a two-year term, and such seat shall be up for election in 2026 and every four years thereafter.
- (2) Four persons shall be elected from District 2. The two persons receiving the highest and second highest number of votes shall serve a four-year term, and such seats shall be up for election in 2028 and every four years thereafter. The persons receiving the third and fourth highest number of votes shall serve a two-year term, and such seats shall be up for election in 2026 and every four years thereafter.
- (3) Three members shall be elected at large from all of Forsyth County. The persons receiving the highest and second highest number of votes shall serve a four-year term, and such seats shall be up for election in 2028 and every four years thereafter. The person receiving the third highest number of votes shall serve a two-year term, and such seat shall be up for election in 2026 and every four years thereafter.

~~Successors to those elected in 2014 shall serve four-year terms.~~



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1 For an at-large seat, any qualified voter of Forsyth County is eligible to vote. For the district  
2 seats, only residents of the district shall be eligible to be candidates and only qualified voters of  
3 the district shall be eligible to vote.

4 The districts as established for the purpose of this subparagraph ~~are for the 2010 election~~  
5 ~~those established under G.S. 115C-37(i), which are subject to change for the election in 2014~~  
6 ~~after the return of the 2010 census, under G.S. 115C-37(i).~~"

7 **SECTION 1.(b)** This act does not affect the terms of office of any person elected in  
8 2020 to the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education. Each member of the  
9 Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education elected in 2020, or any member appointed  
10 to fill a vacancy for a member elected in 2020, shall serve until a successor has been elected and  
11 qualified.

12 **SECTION 2.** Sub-subdivision 2(a)(5)(i) of Chapter 112 of the 1961 Session Laws  
13 reads as rewritten:

14 "(i) The board shall ~~continue to be~~ composed of ~~eight~~ nine persons and the ~~then~~  
15 members of the board shall continue in office (regardless of the terms for which they were  
16 originally appointed) until their successors are elected and qualified, as hereinafter provided."

17 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.